

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02554 241602Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 SCA-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /114 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8703

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2554

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP , US

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF LIMITED CONSULAR ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN
SPAIN AND USSR

REF A-68, MARCH 21, 1974

1. SPANISH MFA OFFICIAL EASTERN EUROPEAN DEPT. RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF
THAT GOS CURRENTLY HOLDING TALKS WITH SOVIET UNION CONCERNING
POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING "SPECIAL" CONSULAR ARRANGEMENT WHICH
WOULD FACILITATE ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO BUSINESSMEN WISHING TO TRAVEL
TO EACH OTHER'S COUNTRY.

2. SPANISH FEEL DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING SOVIET VISAS HAVE IMPEDED
DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE WITH SOVIET UNION. THE ARRANGEMENT WOULD
PERMIT SOVIET COMMERCIAL DELEGATION MADRID TO ISSUE VISAS TO
BUSINESSMEN WHO ARE TRAVELING TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR COMMERCIAL
PURPOSES. IN TURN, SPANISH COMMERCIAL DELEGATION MOSCOW WOULD HAVE
RECIPROCAL PRIVELEGE. NUMBER OF VISAS ISSUED WOULD BE LIMITED.
IN ADDITION. IN ORDER AVOID GIVING ARRANGEMENT AURA OF CONSULAR
RELATIONS, SPANISH HAVE PROPOSED THAT VISAS ISSUED BY SOVIETS
IN MADRID BEAR VISA STAMP FROM SOVET EMBASSY PARIS AND THAT
SPANISH VISAS ISSUED IN MOSCOW BISA STAMP SPANISH EMBASSY

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PAGE 02 MADRID 02554 241602Z

HELSINKI.

3. COMMENT: PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT ON VISAS WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH CHARACTER OF OTHER ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ON TRADE, MARITIME COOPERATION, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES WHEREBY UNSETTLED POLITICAL PROBLEMS, WHICH STAND IN WAY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, ARE NOT ALLOWED TO HOLD UP PRAGMATIC STEPS TOWARDS IMPROVED MUTUAL TIES.

RIVERO

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